(154) (1928)

La Bergère Mar 16

My Billy.

This also is a business letter. I am sending you Bartholomews Northern France. We have unluckily lost the Southern map (or rather Bunny lost it) But if you'll get a new Southern France I will gladly buy it from you. Its much better than the Michelin map - We only have a very small section of the Michelin Guide which would be of no use to you as it only takes in just the neighbourhood, but if you like you can buy the different sections you need as you go along.

But you might get a route from the A.A. Perhaps you have. They're extraordinarily good. letting you everything in the greatest detail. So that you can't go wrong & with that & the Bartholomew you really have all you need. Will you let me know whether you propose to go to Tarascon & if so when you would get there. As in that case its possible Duncan & I might meet you there, as we rather want to go to an old ship D. found at Beaucaire. The hotel to go to at Tarascon is the Hotel des Empereurs. Avenue de la République. Of course we might not turn up - so you would not wait for us - nor we for you.

The Renault is now being overhauled - as the Insurance Company have agreed to pay the provisional estimate so I hope we may soon have it again - For Goodness sake be careful if you have rain.

I will arrange about your rooms at Tenterden.
One piece of business could you most kindly do for me. Which is to bring with you 2 or 3 packets of Sanitary towels, the 2/3 or 2/6 size. As those we sets here are miserable objects. If you have plenty of room in the car I hope this won't be tiresome.
I suppose you don't feel inclined to smuggle any gramophone records? We only have 3 here & are getting rather tired of them. But that may be too difficult unless the blood of your ancestors urges you to it.
All my other commissions I will keep for Clive.
Julian arrived safely & seems cheerful. Nan also arrived & appears in her car. I hope she won't stay for ever. I fear she won't be able to resist waiting to see you.
Roger never writes. Do you know what he intends to do?
That is all the business I have I think. It is really very exciting to think that you will soon be setting off. Julian seemed to bring us into touch with Bloomsbury once more but we are still very remote

Yours V.W.

I see that the Guide Michelin is different from the Cartes. We haven't got it & I fear it may be impossible to get here but I will try. But as I said the Bart. map & AA route are quite enough.

(160)

22nd April 1928

La Bergère, Cassis, Bouches du Rhône, France.

Sunday

My Billy.

Business first. I should be very glad to let the Vitas friends as there is nothing else in prospect & it better than having the rooms empty. I am very sorry to bother you about it. But could you in that case ask Mrs Uppington, 91 Leverton St Kentish Town, to clean the rooms first & give them the keys which Adrian has. Mrs Up. will see to everything if she can be got at as she is charge.

I will write Thursday.

Please thank Leonard for letting me have news of you en route. I was appalled by the horrors of your journey. I can't think how you survived them. I feel rather discouraged from attempting the same adventure, but the weather may possibly have improved by then & we shall like avoid mountains. Our return from Beaucaire was uneventful. Except that the wind was so strong near Aix that it literally almost stopped the car. At Aix we found a very good antiquaire

We spent £10 on 3 old chairs, one a great beauty, a lovely old quilted petticoat to cover them, two very beautiful handkerchiefs and an Empire coffee service, 6 cups, coffee pot, sugar basin & a very pretty old tray. — So you see I no longer envy you. There were one or two odds & ends thrown in so I think it was cheap. It is much the best shop we have found & I am not to be kept by an old lady already well known to Roger, a terrific character. She is very remarkable to look at & her daughter even more so. Like an even more pronounced Dorelia. I think we shall get more from them.

I cannot think what can be the explanation of Clive's behaviour. I am completely innocent & ignorant, having never said a word of any kind that could account for it as far as I know. I suppose he may have read your letters to me. They were all put away but not locked up. It is true & if he rummaged no doubt he could find them. It is difficult to guard against such things. I wish you could find out some day as if he does take trouble to read letters I shall have to lock up which would be

160 ii

La Bergère, Cassis, Bouches du Rhône, France.

Tuesday when at Charleston etc. I haven't even told him I had a letter from you today. & I wish you all away in future though the steed may be stolen. He's in a very odd state sexually I think. We had to dine with Clive no night to meet a painter called Hillier & his mistress, a completely empty headed little creature of 19. Clive chained us into her in such a way that rational conversation was out of the question & it was really too difficult. I don't know what's to be done about it, but I think its impossible to see him in company with females. I can't believe they like it either. It used to be bad enough with Mary but its far worse now.

I am not much attracted to take you the trouble by your account of life in Bloomsbury. Not that it would attract me so much but it sounds terrible & I cannot help being thankful that I am still out of it.

I have no time for more as I must send this by Elsie to catch the post

but please write soon & I may be able to tell you something of interest in return — Do you realize Raymond is on us this week?

Yours VB

it probably is. Let us [illegible] to say. It's not even fresh yet, as [illegible] & someone else.
Duncan no doubt — would send
passionate love & kiss yours VW

La Bergère, Cassis, Bouches du Rhône, France. Early May 1928

My Billy.

I am alone for the first time since I don't know when. Clive & Raymond have gone & Duncan has gone too for the night to Marseilles. As always after the departure of a visitor the relief is very great: I felt my flow with snip completely & pieces moment by moment in R's presence & at last it seemed to me as though we were all dizzily trying to talk in the style of Eve or me of the ladies who write for Vogue or the Tatler. Which reminds me — I at last had to promise to write to Vogue & ask for the photographs Todd wants & as neither he nor Raymond seem like speaking terms with Vogue I am asking them to have them sent to you — I hope you don't mind. When they come could you keep them for Raymond who will call for them or if you want to avoid that you could drop them in at his door the day in passing. I am very grateful for all your help in letting the rooms. I suppose they are now inhabited by the Virgils

Could you let me know which rooms the Virgils have & for how long as I shall have to arrange about Angelica's return.

it probably is. Let us [illegible] to say. It's not even fresh yet, as [illegible] & some one else.
Duncan no doubt — would send
passionate love if [illegible] your V.B

La Bergère, Cassis, Bouches du Rhône, France. Early May 1928

My Billy.

I am alone for the first time since I don't know when. Clive & Raymond have gone & Duncan has gone too for the night to Marseilles. As always after the departure of a visitor the relief is very great. I felt my flow with snap completely & piece moment by moment in R's presence & at last it seemed to me as though we were all dizzily trying to talk in the style of Eve or me of the ladies who write for Vogue or the latter. Which reminds me — I at last had to promise to write to Vogue & ask for the photographs Todd wants & as neither he nor Raymond seem like speaking terms with Vogue I am asking them (& have them sent to you — I hope you don't mind. When they come could you keep them for Raymond who will call for them or if you want to avoid that you could drop them in at his door the day in passing. I am very grateful for all your help in letting the rooms I suppose they are now inhabited by the Voigts

Could you let me know which rooms the Voigts have & for how long as I shall have to arrange about Angelica's return.

Duncan had a telegram from Dick Wood -
was he the American who rang you up? -
asking him & let his bedroom. Duncan told
him & set into touch with you: as I dont
know how many rooms the Virgs are using
But I expect in any case its impossible
for Dick Wood & combine with them.
However I must I am afraid leave the
whole matter in your hands. & do
what you like: I am sure your practical
abilities are immense. I have also
been working hard for you I may tell
you. I took 6 photographs of Angelica -
all a complete failure. didnt appear
at all I dont know why. I took 6 more
which are more or less successful. That is
I think if enlarged & the head & shoulders &
surroundings touched up one might
possibly do. But after consultation with
Roger I decided & try again & have taken
6 more. As soon as these are done
in a day or two I will send you all
possible ones & choose from. The ones I
have are quite good photographs & rather
lovely but she may look too childish &
too obviously dressed up. Anyhow you shall
have all as soon as possible.

(16/11)

I think you must be right about Clive reading your letters from things he has said. I fancy indirectly La Bergère, Cassis, Bouches du Rhône, France. that such mischief as had been made between you & him had to do with your complaining to someone else of his coming to see you too often & I think that in one of your letters to me you did say something about having had constant visits from him. It's probably not very serious, but it's a great bore & I hate to be so careful about letters. However I see that we must be in our society. I think Clive is still in a very odd state. I had rather a curious conversation with him which I will tell you about when I see you (in exchange for your sorrys) He seemed a little depressed at going & even talked of returning here again. I think the tour in Italy or France with his lady friend must be off as he has gone straight to Paris, but he has ordered rooms for two here.

Duncan has obediently written to Hope - also to Mrs Stoop - no doubt you heard of Mrs Stoop's death. We have heard from Angus who was still in doubt & seemed I think he very likely could not come here. I am

beginning to consider getting the children & car home - I refused & so & Germany. which made Roger very cross but I really didn't see how to manage it. It will be very complicated as it is, & I rather think I shall have to take the children, including Grace, to Paris & despatch them from London & then return here to drive back with Duncan. It rather a nuisance but I don't like sending them alone & I don't quite see what to do as Duncan can't very well drive all the way back alone. If Angus should come they might perhaps drive & meet me somewhere on the way. The car is now in Marseilles being smartened up We have had appalling weather lately - much worse than yours no doubt. Now its fine again but I daresay won't last. I daresay the downs are more beautiful & I think the country near Saraxon is. But I suspect the wind would be far worse. As for the English climate how you would adore it! I nearly died of my one excursion into the heart of it, a dinner with the Coxtons. They said Grace at such length I nearly disgraced myself & the food was literally uneatable. Mrs C. is said to have known the O'Briens & reminds me of Mrs O'B. But I think she disliked me too much ever to ask me again. The caricature of you may be very like some one but

(162)

early May 1928

La Bergère, Cassis, Bouches du Rhône, France.

My Billy

At-last- I send you the photographs. These are 3 which I think might possibly do, which I have marked on the back 1. 2. 3. But all would want touching up as regards clothes & background. If you could get them enlarged I could do this for you & the reproduction could then be made from the touched up print. If you want the thing to look like a portrait in a frame you'd have to get a photograph of a frame & put it round. Perhaps however you won't think any of them suit your purpose. I can't really judge. Anyhow will you keep them for me, as they're rather lovely portraits even if useless. I send you all so that you can judge for yourself.

We have had a terrible time of wet & cold like you I believe have been in summer. However its very peaceful here - even Brett Daisy's appearance for a few days hasn't really disturbed us. We were very much interested by your appointment in the Times,

but I must say you & Mrs Walpole look rather a melancholy couple – Do tell us how you behaved – did your bravery come off? I wish I had been there. I am anxious to hear what that & many other things whether you have seen the Trips at all since Roger's return & what is happening in Angus. We don't know whether he still means to come here or not but the time is getting rather short. If he did come he might possibly help to a solution of the problem of getting the children & the car back but I daresay he wouldn't:

Mrs Voigt & Dorothy has written & sent sent for 4½ weeks. So I suppose she means to stay exactly till the end of May. I think I shall try to get Angelica & Grace back as soon as she leaves. I wonder what Leonard thinks of my difficulties about Jy. I sometimes feel so harried that I think I must simply give it up, only I can't see what to do for the present if I did as while Angelica is at home one must have a fairly decent house to live in & can't just pig it in a studio which I feel will be my ultimate fate. Perhaps you will settle all such matters for me with your usual practical genius. The Woolves are considered a very desirable couple at Tonbridge you'll be glad to hear.

Yours V.W.

(163) (1928)

cf CB/VB Am II 77

La Bergere. May 20

May 23. For some reason (which for the life of me I cannot remember now) this was not sent Angus could not come on Friday - poor creature, what with lectures & indecision he must have gone through!

My Billy.

Look what miserable paper I am now reduced to. But I want have any letter unless it is next year I suppose. Business first. I send you a cheque for £9.6.0 made up as follows -

1/3	Murray	£. 5. 0
1/3	Gerald	16
3 pkts S. Towels at 1/8		5
		£9. 6. 0

That may have been other things I can't remember. If so you will have to do, being such a Tiger in money matters.

I have made my arrangements at last. It seemed so absurd to go to Paris & return here that at last I decided to approach Lavelli. Who said he always glad if an odd job. I have arranged with her to meet the children & conduct them through Paris. Angelica should reach London on Friday June 2nd at about tea time. Duncan & I suddenly got it into our heads that we were behaving rather unenterprisingly by going back with a large empty car. So we telegraphed to Angus asking him if he'd like to come out & drive back. We were amused also at thinking of the fluster this would put him into. Sure enough we got a reply "When do you leave?" so he will have had another day or two in which to consider things. Perhaps tomorrow we shall hear. I think we shall have given him more pain than pleasure anyhow but it was well meant. Also we considered offering Morgan a drive back but were not sure how much he'd like it. Anyhow

we ourselves start back either on the 30th or 31st We mean to keep to the valleys & so by Toulouse. Périgueux Brantôme to Versailles probably. Leave the car there & go for a few days to Paris. We have suggested to Roger that if he's coming back about then he should meet us in Paris & we'd dine him to Dieppe. I will let you know how we get on. The car has now returned shining all over like a looking glass & in perfect order. Only hope we shall bring it back none the worse.

We had a visit from the Strachey's. They came to lunch only. I think they felt slightly sheepish about their alarmist telegram. In fact Lytton had completely recovered by the next morning. But as I supposed Carrington carried out her threat & Lytton had got into a panic I suppose not knowing how she'd procure him any comforts. She has a very bad effect on him, like all these wives, & conversation was perfectly dull. It's very odd. The moment one gets Lytton alone he walks up, comparatively at any rate, but in her presence all is depressed & lifeless. They were buying furniture of course & want me to buy them a lot of crockery! What an appalling account of Ottoline - One can imagine with more horrible. Ought one to write to her? Duncan thinks one ought. But I feel it's almost impossible.

I have had no real letter from Clive since he went, only cards & scraps. I am anxious to hear if you have had things out with him. I can't believe Bobo is the whole root of the matter but I think something may have gone wrong with the other lady. She seems to have failed to come to France -

(163 ii)

Duncan has gone off to paint at Tarbert for two days so I am alone. We are hoping to feel it is the end approaching & that things must be done now or never — If it weren't for you I really don't think I should ever face England again - the effort is appalling. I have heard nothing more about my house - Mr Boys said I must start the repairs or there would be trouble & that I must give an exact account of my subletting. I said the repairs must wait till I returned & I gave an account more or less true of my subletting - so now I shall see what happens.

But I think really I shall have to stay on unless their terms are too exorbitant another year or two - By that time Angelica will be 11. She will visit us from school then I expect & I shall pick up Sy & perhaps take one room, a studio if possible. Near Duncan's. I think it absurd & too cumbrous to have a large establishment in London. I see Julian would much prefer to have the family centre in the country & if he wants to be in London he had much better have a room of his own. Quentin with either be in Paris or a studio in London too. I shall then be very free & moveable. & probably in London as much as I am now. but without all these horrible arrangements to make whenever I went away. Does not your practical genius approve?

By the way, as you have such a good house-agent, you might find me a tenant for this house - I have one in prospect & ought to get someone for June, July. Aug. September. Rent £4.4.0 a week.

I wrote to Todd, to Bobbo & to Vera Boven, who all seemed to me possible centres for people who might come here for the summer. But I have really much more faith in your powers. All would be made very easy for anyone coming, as Elsie could continue to come & do shopping & cook. Would it be a good plan to put an advertisement in the Nation? Your such an expert at writing such things that I'm sure you'd get me a tenant at once as you did for Aunt Daisy & I give you free lease to go into print on my behalf, only remembering that there are 2 bedrooms, 2 studios with beds, dining room, kitchen, bathroom with h & c. water. garage. French daily servant. But I don't really want you to bother about it beyond letting anyone you see — such as Hugh Walpole or Miss Robins. Your account of her was most interesting & I wish we could get more reminiscences of Mother which don't simply make her out a melancholy saint. Also Lady Horner was fascinating. Can't the publish B.J's letters now? But I suppose his heirs have a right to prevent it.

I am afraid Julian is bothering you with his literary efforts. He seems to be too much occupied with them to do any work & I expect will feel at his classes. He seems very heavy about them. He's also mulling a great many speeches. Quentin I imagine is travelling with the Frys now - they'll be an odd party.

You still have time to write here — & then I suppose to Paris. After nearly a week on the roads I shall hope for news there — I shall consider Angelica in your charge till I return. Julian will be at 37 also.

Your V.W.